

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01
OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01
L-03 /119 W

-----141459Z 063452 /50

R 141400Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0844
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0480

1. TEXT OF ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL COMMISSIONER GENERAL MOHAMED

MAHGOUB'S OPENING SPEECH TO CURRENT CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICERS (REFTEL) CONTAINS LITTLE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL NOT ALREADY REPORTED.

2. DEFENSE OF LEGALITY OF BOYCOTT IS STANDARD, AS IS ACCUSATION US USED BOYCOTT AGAINST CHINA AND CUBA EVEN THOUGH NOT AT WAR. LANGUAGE REGARDING POSSIBLE REFUSAL DEAL AT ALL WITH COMPANIES IN COUNTRY ENACTING ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. "WE WOULD LIKE TO WARN, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH LAWS AND PROPOSED LAWS WILL BASICALLY HURT ONLY THE ECONOMY OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ENACT THEM AND NOT THE ECONOMY OF THE ARAB STATES. THE ARAB STATES CAN AND WILL OBTAIN REQUIRED GOODS FROM OTHER ECONOMICALLY AND TECHNOLOGICALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WEST, EAST OR JAPAN."

B. "THIS WAS ALSO CONFIRMED BY THE ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WHICH MET IN DAMASCUS LAST MONTH. THE CONFERENCE NOTED THAT THERE ARE MANY COMPANIES WAITING TO ENTER THE ARAB MARKETS AND REPLACE COMPANIES WHICH FAIL TO COOPERATE BECAUSE OF LAWS ENACTED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

C. "MEMBERS OF THIS CONFERENCE, WHO REPRESENTED THE TOP ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ARAB WORLD, ARE INSISTING ON UPHOLDING ARAB BOYCOTT REGULATIONS AND LOOKING FOR IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENT FOR MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY COMPANIES IN COUNTRIES WHICH ENACT ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS. THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED THAT ARAB BUSINESSMEN AND IMPORTERS REFRAIN FROM THE IMPORT OF ANY COMMODITY FROM A COUNTRY ENACTING SUCH LAWS."

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3. COMMENT: MAHGOUB WENT ON TO DISCUSS "POPULARITY OF BOYCOTT AMONG ARAB MASSES WITHOUT INDICATING WHETHER BOYCOTT COMMISSION SHOULD ENDORSE OR TAKE ACTION ON CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE RECOMMENDATION.

4. IN OPENING AND CLOSING PARAGRAPHS OF SPEECH, MAHGOUB NOT ONLY SALUTED ALEXANDRIA GOVERNOR HODEIB BUT ALSO GENERAL EL-HUSSEING MOHAMED EL-DECB, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF EGYPTIAN COAST GUARD AND SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL OF THE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL IN THE ARE, AND COLONEL MOHAMMED AMIN ATTA, DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL OFFICE. COMMENT: WE ARE TOLD ATTA IS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL. PREVIOUS REGIONAL DIRECTOR (UNTIL LAST YEAR) WAS MAJOR GENERAL HAMID HATEM. CHASE

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